

Since the mid-90's the FAA has received over 85 reports of fire, heat or smoke caused by batteries being transported in air commerce. These reports cover all air-mode phases including in-cabin, checked baggage and cargo operations. All types of batteries and electronic devices are represented in these reports. Primary non-rechargeable lithium batteries, rechargeable lithium ion batteries, as well as non-lithium nickel metal hydride, Ni-Cad and alkaline batteries are all cited in reports. The existing hazardous materials regulations do not classify batteries according to their energy potential. While the FAA conducts inspections, responds to incidents and takes enforcement actions with respect to these hazardous materials regulations, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and issues the US regulations for all modes of transport. Each type of battery chemistry presents different risks. The presentation will focus on efforts are underway to evaluate and communicate these risks and to strengthen the respective requirements.